

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT Steam Shovel Production at USIA-Controlled Waagner-Biro A.G.

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USIA-controlled Waagner-Biro A.G. has produced 31 of the 70 multi-purpose steam shovels, based on a Soviet model, which were scheduled for completion between 1 January 1953 and May 1953.¹ The reasons for the lag in production are allegedly as follows:

- a. Waagner-Biro A.G. is not organized properly for the production of steam shovels and much of the work has to be sub-contracted to other firms which are experiencing difficulties in the production of steam shovel parts.
- b. Deliveries of steel from Vöest (Vereinigte Oesterreichische Eisen- u. Stahlwerke A.G.) and the Oesterreichische Alpine-Montangesellschaft, Donawitz, are irregular.
- c. For the past two or three months, Waagner-Biro A.G., as all USIA-controlled firms, has experienced the effects of the Soviet Military Bank's schilling shortage.

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¹ [] Comment: These steam shovels were described in []

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